

Chronology: Village of Laurelville Communications

Grant was transferred to me in February 2005.

4/19/2005: I received an e-mail forwarded from the previous project officer, Lula Spruill, with a request from the Mayor (Conrad) for copies of the original award and work plan, the amendment to the award and the work plan revisions it was based on. Mayor Conrad stated that things were missing from his Office (sabotage) so I forwarded the documents to him.

I also suggested to Mayor Conrad that he read the terms and conditions of the grant award. I had been reviewing the file and there were no progress reports from Laurelville and they were supposed to comply semi-annually. I requested a general report on the progress of the grant for the past periods and let him know that I would e-mail him when future reports and documentation was due.

1/20/2006 – Sent a request for Progress Report to Mayor Conrad. I again requested a summary report on the grant with future reports submitted timely.

6/6/06 – Again sent request for progress reports to Mayor Conrad.

6/22/06 – Received Inspection Report from Tetra Tech which basically stated that the Village should get in touch with the EPA PO to discuss the lack of progress at work site due to shortage of matching funds and to request an extension. They also stated that the Mayor and Solicitor were not familiar with the grant documents and construction work performed to date. Stated that no work had been done since the previous inspection in March 2005.

6/29/06 – Requested that the ASAP account of the Village of Laurelville be frozen until such time as I felt they were in compliance with report requests. At that time, there was \$97,551.79 in the account. The grantee had spent \$278,448.21 of the 376,000 award, with the last draw down made on 11/30/2004.

10/12/06 Requested closeout documents from the Village and asked if they needed an extension, they should submit a request in writing.

11/29/06 – Received an e-mail from Mayor Conrad stating that he was no longer the Mayor, and stating that he had forwarded my request of 6/6 to the current Mayor and obviously he had not responded.

11/30/06 – See attached e-mail relating conversation with the Village lawyer, Mr. Archer. He stated that he would again inform the current Mayor and that if I didn't hear from him within 2 weeks, to call him (Mr. Archer) again.

11/30/06 – Tried calling the Village but received no answer. All the telephone numbers listed for the Village Management were private cell phones, which were not answered.

12/02/06 - Mr. Zawacki informed me that he didn't know anything about the project, the Clerk did not know anything and he did not want to be involved.

12/11/06 – Informed Mr. Zawacki that it was not that easy, (e-mail attached) and that the Village of Laurelville was responsible for the grant, and with providing me with the information I was requesting. He stated that he would try to assist with getting the documentation. He stated that he had turned the request over to the former Mayor, Jean West over a month ago and she was supposed to get in touch with me. He gave me her telephone number.

12/11/2006 – Grants Office sent Laurelville a closeout letter. Mayor Zawacki thought that he could close the grant without supplying the information requested by me. I had to inform him that until we received the requested information the grant could not and would not be closed.

12/12/06 – Received an e-mail from Mayor Zawacki stating that the limited information he and the Clerk had was for a total of \$1005.00 in payments to Warren White (former finance official) with little or no backup documentation. He stated that there had been no work on the project and that there was no problem with Laurelville meeting its match.

2/20/07 – Tetra Tech scheduled another inspection for March 15, 2007.

3/07 - Jean West, former Mayor stated that 82% of the project was complete, and that the project was incomplete because Laurelville could not meet its match. I discussed the grant with Steffanie Crossland, SAP Coordinator, and we requested from Ms. West that she send us the invoices, and a final report stating what had been completed, what was not completed, and the reasons for the project being incomplete. Ms. West assured us that she had the invoices and would complete the report. We felt that once we got the requested information we would be better able to decide a course of action.

3/15/07 – Called Ms. West to determine what progress, if any, she was making. Stated that she was meeting with Mr. Warren White and they were working on the final report.

3/27/07 – Called Ms. West again and received the same response.

6/4/07 – Grants Office selected the Village of Laurelville for a desk review. They were given the run around, and were told that they could not speak to them, only to me and Steffanie. Francisca Ramos, Grants Specialist, was not happy and wanted to find out how to get the IG to go visit Laurelville and make them cough up the documents.

6/12/07 – Steffanie Crossland sent an e-mail to Mayor Zawacki requesting the information be sent to me no later than 6/30/07, or we would be forced to explore alternate resolutions.

6/27/07 – OIG visit.

appeal 2 Levels:

① RA Appeal

② HQ Appeal

Mike Hess
Village ^{Lawyer} Council

Warren White,
Consultant for Village
Village considering
legal action against
Warren White. Would
like to see statements
he made to OIG.
Info may be available
under Freedom of Info
act.